Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. Cancelled

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein R_2 is -NHCH(CH_3)$COOCH_3$.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is -NHCH(CH_3)$COOCH_3$.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the compound of formula I is administered intravenously.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the compound of formula I is administered orally.

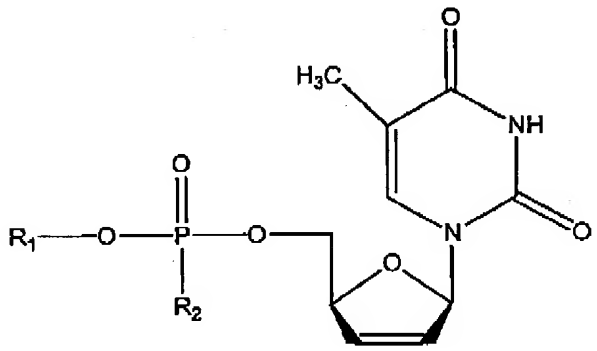
24. Cancelled

25. (Currently amended) A method for extending the half-life of a compound of formula I in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal:

an esterase inhibitor, wherein the esterase inhibitor comprises ~~The method of claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is~~ paraoxon; and

a compound of formula I;

wherein the compound of formula I is:



(I)

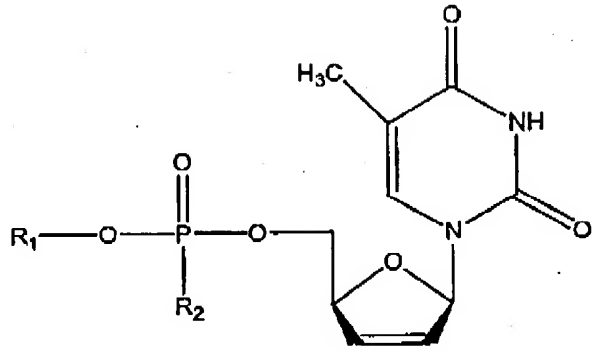
where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (currently amended) A method for extending the half-life of a compound of formula I in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal:

an esterase inhibitor, wherein the esterase inhibitor comprises ~~The method of claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is~~ physostigmine; and

a compound of formula I;

wherein the compound of formula I is:



(I)

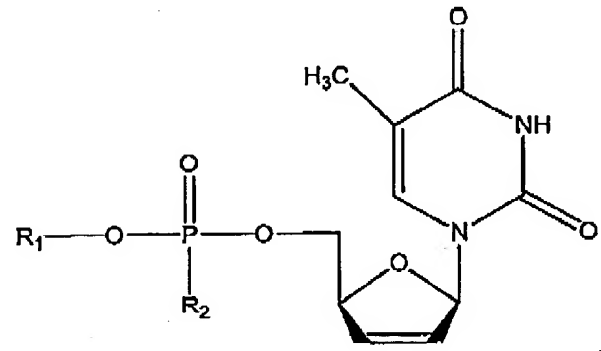
where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Currently amended) A method for extending the half-life of a compound of formula I in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal:

an esterase inhibitor, wherein the inhibitor comprises ~~The method of claim 21, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is selected from~~ a combination of paraoxon and physostigmine; and

a compound of formula I;

wherein the compound of formula I is:



(I)

where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered concurrently.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 ~~14~~, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered in a single dosage form.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the a single dosage form is a parenteral dosage form.

31-45. Cancelled

46. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

47. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

48. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

49. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl.

50. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

51. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein R_2 is $-NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

52. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is $-NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

53. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound of formula I is administered intravenously.

54. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound of formula I is administered orally.

55. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered concurrently.

56. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered in a single dosage form.

57. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the a single dosage form is a parenteral dosage form.

58. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

59. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

60. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

61. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl.

62. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

63. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

64. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

65. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound of formula I is administered intravenously.

66. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound of formula I is administered orally.

67. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered concurrently.

68. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered in a single dosage form.

69. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the a single dosage form is a parenteral dosage form.